Development of Space Power Generator by NPCL

2349. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Space Power Generator (SPG) was development by Nuclear Power Corporation Limited (NPCIL) at Kaiga project;

(b) whether a model of the same was shown at any time in the Conference by German Association of Gravity Field Energy at Hanover;

(c) if so, whether work is still going on the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

News-Item titled "Foreign Reactors-Dangerous Liaisons"

2350. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article in the Hindu Survey of Environment, 1999 titled "Foreign Reactors-Dengerous liaisons" by former Chairman of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board pertaining to the Russian VVER reactors planned for Koodankulam; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The VVER-1000, model 320 type plants have been extensively reviewed by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and

its studies have concluded that the VVER-1000 Nuclear Power Plants of Russian design are similar to Pressurised Water Reactors (PWRs) of western design. The design of model 320 is consistent with standard international practices for safety systems and safety related systems. The basis safety concepts of defence-in-depth is realised by design criteria, including the use of redundancy, diversity, independence and fail-safe design. The reactors being offered to india are VVER-1000 Model 392 type, which is a more advanced version of Model 320, Model 392 has been assessed by the IAEA to be equivalent to the most advanced PWR designs developed by western countries. The design features of the proposed Kudankulam Plant will meet the regulatory requirement of India and its design will be licensed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The plant will be made capable for operating with high performance reliably and safely in the Indian grid conditions. Government will take necessary steps to ensure that it has the latest design features and meet the latest international safety requirements.

Heavy Loss to IREL due to Recent Cyclone

2351. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IREL) sustained huge losses due to recent super cyclone in Orissa;

(b) if so, the estimated damage caused to Indian Rare Earths Ltd.;

(c) the steps taken to repair the damage; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes Sir, the plants in the Orissa Sands Complex of the Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) at Chhatrapur in Orissa suffered extensive damage due to the cyclone of 17-18 October 1999.